

southeast*io*wa

By Steve Waters, Regional Fisheries Supervisor

bluegill

Belva Deer Lake, **Keokuk** – Lots of 7- to 10-inch fish.

Lake Sugema, **Van Buren** – Tremendous numbers of 7- to 9-inch fish. Habitat galore!

Lake Wapello, **Davis** – Excellent numbers of 8- to 9-inch fish. Plentiful rock and woody habitat as well as vegetation.

Indian Lake, **Van Buren** – Excellent quality; 8- to 10-inch fish.

Hawthorn Lake, **Mahaska** – Good numbers of 7- to 9-inch fish

Farm Ponds, all counties – Mostly private water; best place for a trophy.

Lake Geode, **Henry** – Good numbers of 7- to 9-inch fish with 10-inch fish present.

Lake Odessa, **Louisa** – Lots of 7- to 9-inch fast growing fish; find woody areas.

Shimek Ponds, **VanBuren** – Seven to 9-inch fish common; five ponds.

Diamond Lake, **Poweshiek** – Seven- to 9-inch fish off jetties and around brush piles.

crappie

Coralville Reservoir, **Linn** – Fish around downed trees or vertical jig rocky shorelines; 10- to 14 inch fish common.

Lake Macbride, **Johnson** – Gobs of 8- to 10-inch fish.

Hawthorn Lake, **Mahaska** – Abundant 8- to 10 inch fish.

Iowa Lake, **Iowa** – Good numbers of 9- to 11-inch fish.

Mississippi River, Big Timber area – Eight- to 10-inch fish common; big fish present.

Lake Odessa, **Louisa** – Abundant 10- to 12-inch fish; some trophies.

Rathbun Lake, **Appanoose** – Excellent numbers of 9- to 11-inch fish; a must-go-to lake.

Lake Miami, **Monroe** – Tons of 8- to 10 inch fish.

Indian Lake, **Van Buren** – Nine- to 11-inch fish with 12- to 14 inch available.

Lake Darling, **Washington** – Nine-to 11-inch are common; big fish swimming.

largemouth bass

Mississippi River, Big Timber – Great numbers, all sizes.

Lake Odessa, **Louisa** – Good numbers of fish up to 22 inches.

Lake Miami, **Monroe** – Excellent numbers-all sizes; fish submerged timber.

Lake Wapello, **Davis** – No-kill regulation; many 12- to 15-inch fish and some reach 20 inches.

Hawthorn Lake, **Mahaska** – Great population of 12- to 22-inch fish.

Lake Sugema, **Van Buren** – Twelve- to 18-inch protected slot limit; numerous 11- to 17-inch fish.

Pleasant, Creek **Linn** – Lots of 12- to 16-inch fish; 18-inch minimum size limit.



Lake Macbride, **Johnson** – Good numbers-all sizes; lots of new habitat and Kentucky spotted bass present

Diamond Lake, **Poweshiek** – Good numbers of 2- to 4 pound fish; target pallets.

Farm Ponds, **all counties** – Best chance for a trophy; mostly private water.

channel catfish

Mississippi River, **Pools 16-19** – Best catfish hole in the state.

Lake Darling, **Washington** – Lots of 15- to 19-inch fish; 9-pounders present.

Coralville Reservoir, **Johnson** – Excellent population-all sizes

Kent Park, **Johnson** – Outstanding angling; excellent shoreline access.

Otter Creek, **Tama** – Lots of 14- to 20-inch fish.

Rathbun Lake, **Appanoose** – Exceptional fishery; they're everywhere; all sizes

Most Interior Rivers – Exceptional fishery-all sizes; fish snag areas.

Hawthorn Lake, **Mahaska** – Excellent fishery with fish up to 25 inches.

Corydon Lake, **Wayne** – Abundant numbers due to the cage catfish program.

Lake Miami, Monroe – Excellent numbers-all sizes.

walleye

Rathbun Reservoir, **Appanoose** – Excellent fishery; late spring/summer is best.

Mississippi River, **lock and dam 15 and 17** – Great tailwater fishery; fish move to wing dams in summer.

Iowa River, **Johnson** – Fish below Coralville Dam and Burlington Street Dam in Iowa City.

Wapsi River, **Linn and Jones** – Fish below dams at Central City and Anamosa.

white bass

Rathbun Lake, **Appanoose** – Excellent fishery with fish averaging 10 to 14 inches.

Mississippi River – Fish below

locks and dam and wing dams; plentiful.

Pleasant Creek, **Linn** – Look for schools feeding on surface in summer; 16-inch fish common.

flathead catfish

Skunk River (all stretches) – This popular fishery is easy to fish because of its size.

Mississippi River, **pools 16-19** – Best below locks and dams and side channels.



Rathbun Reservoir, **Appanoose** – Target the Bridgeview

area.

Cedar,

Iowa, and rivers

Wapsipinicon Des Moines

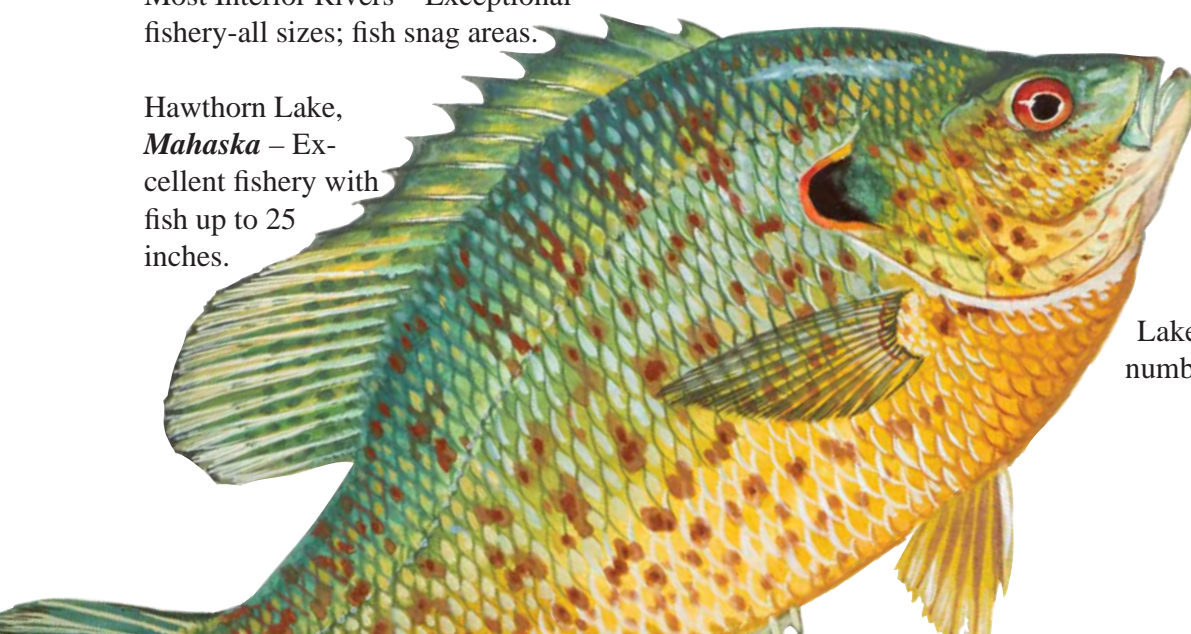
– Good for all sizes. Look for big fish in holes during summer and around drift piles and bridge pilings.

red ear sunfish

Lake Geode, **Henry** – Fish have been sampled up to 11 1/2 in.

Lake Wapello, **Davis** – Good numbers of 8-12 in. fish.

Lake Sugema, **Van Buren** – Good numbers of 8-12 in. fish.



hiddenjewel

2006

northeast

By Bill Kalishek, biologist
The Cedar River in Mitchell County, from the town of Mitchell downstream, offers excellent angling for native populations of smallmouth bass and channel catfish. Annual stockings of fingerling walleye and northern pike also provide great fishing. It's best to float the river in a canoe or walk the Cedar River Greenbelt Trail from highway 9 to Mitchell or the Spring Park Trails. Interstate Park at Mitchell (modern facilities) and Spring Park near Osage (primitive camping) provide riverside accommodations.

northwest

By Jim Christianson, biologist
Lake Pahoja, Lyon County, is a 70-acre man-made lake that provides hours of recreation for the outdoor enthusiast. The fishing clientele is rather localized, probably due to its location in extreme northwestern Iowa. With recent fish management activities, the bluegill and crappie fisheries should expand and provide some good angling. This, along with some very good channel catfish fishing, will make this lake an angler's destination. The park area

adjacent to the lake is managed by the Lyon County Conservation Board and provides many amenities, including camping pads, cabins, trails, a beach, playgrounds, boat rentals and a covered fishing pier.

southeast

By Don Kline, biologist
Yenrougis Pond lays just 2 miles north of Sigourney. The rugged landscape of the abandoned rock quarry compliments the crystal clear water. Anglers will find healthy populations of bluegills, black crappies, largemouth bass, channel catfish and redear sunfish. Expect to catch a bunch of nice size fish of all species. Just vary your tackle and bait to fit the species of fish. Try a small hook and pinch of worm for panfish, flashy spinner baits for bass and smelly stink baits for catfish. Dabble along the shoreline or work the deeper water in a canoe or float tube. A gravel ramp is available for small boats with electric motors. Bring a picnic



Nine Eagles Lake

or plan a primitive camp out in this quiet scenic area.

southwest

By Gary Sobotka, biologist
Nine Eagles Lake is a 56-acre lake hidden in Decatur County near Davis City. The lake has good populations of bluegill, largemouth bass and an underused population of channel catfish. Along with this, an excellent state park with good camping facilities is available.

tophunch

2006

northeast

By Bryan Hayes, biologist
A catch-and-release regulation on smallmouth bass in a four mile segment of the Maquoketa River



Lake McBride

anglers witnessed an incredible increase in numbers and size of smallmouth bass. A string of low reproduction-years in the middle 1990s caused a downturn in the population that a catch-and-release regulation couldn't prevent. The smallmouth bass fishing in this segment is a top hunch for 2006 because of the rebounding numbers witnessed in last fall's fishery survey. Numbers and size are back. Anglers can access this area by small jon-boat, canoe or wading this scenic stretch of river in Delaware County.

northwest

By Lannie Miller, biologist
North Twin Lake in Calhoun County has it all. It has great fishing for a variety of fish, including bluegills and crappies up to 10 inches, yellow

starting just below Lake Delhi Dam was implemented almost 20 years ago. The first 10 years of the regulation

bass by the boat load, bullheads weighing more than a pound, walleye in the 2-pound-plus class and unlimited channel cat fishing. Combine this with excellent water clarity and you have the makings of a great outdoor adventure. Shoreline fishing is available but boat anglers will have the advantage.

southeast

By Paul Sleeper, biologist
All indications point toward a banner year for panfish at Lake Macbride. If you want to catch lots of bluegill, than Lake Macbride is the place to go. Most bluegills at Macbride will be around 6 to 7 inches and can be caught near the brush piles all year. There is also a strong year class of crappie from 8 to 10 inches. Fish these crappie in shallow brush in the spring and late fall. In the summer months crappie move away from the shorelines and suspend over deeper water. Macbride is a shoreline anglers dream spot with numerous hiking trails that will take you around most of the lake.

southwest

By Chris Larson, biologist
Lake Anita in Cass County is a good bet for excellent bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish fishing if the lake fills in the spring. The fish population was renovated in 2003 and additional fish habitat placed in the lake bottom, however fishing has been limited because the lake has been about 3 feet low for two years. If the lake does not fill, a temporary boat ramp will be constructed to improve access.



Maquoketa River

riverrat

2006

northeast

By Mark Winn, technician

The scenic Wapsipinicon River flowing through northeast Iowa offers diverse fishing opportunities for anglers and should be a top priority for anglers this coming season. Whether after northern pike, walleye, smallmouth bass, channel catfish or an occasional nice creel of crappies, this river offers all types of diverse habitats holding good numbers and sizes of fish. These species, with the exception of walleyes, are all self-sustaining naturally reproducing populations. Accessing fish in the “Wapsi” can be as easy as throwing on a pair of old sneakers and wading in Bremer County, or floating a jonboat in Buchanan County.

northwest

By Jim Wahl, biologist

The Iowa River in Hardin County is one of the most scenic rivers in Iowa and offers some of the best fishing as well. Limestone rock provides rock-rubble substrate throughout the county, which is the preferred habitat for smallmouth bass. Channel catfish and northern pike also inhabit the river and provide self-sustaining

populations. Walleye fingerlings are stocked annually and have produced outstanding fishing in recent

years. Access is excellent with an abundance of public approaches throughout the county. Many anglers prefer to fish by canoe or small jonboat, however much of the stream is wadeable.

southeast

By Bernie Schonhoff, biologist

What makes the Mississippi River the best place for a fishing adventure no matter what you’re after? DIVERSITY. The Mighty Mississippi has something for everyone. You like catfish? Channel or flathead catfish, and bullheads, the Mississippi has them all. Like your fish with scales? Largemouth and smallmouth bass, the river has them both — just ask the ESPN/BASS

tournament anglers headed there this year. White bass are abundant and they’re willing biters, especially in the tailwaters in the spring. People often associate walleye and sauger with the northern lakes country, but they’re in the river in good numbers. Whether it’s crappies, bluegills or perch, the backwaters have plenty of panfish as well.

southwest

By Andy Moore, supervisor

Two rivers, the Des Moines in Boone and Polk counties and the Middle Raccoon from Panora to Redfield in Guthrie and Dallas counties, are excellent fishing destinations. The Des Moines can be good for walleye, channel catfish, white bass and hybrid striped bass. Fishing can be good below the various low head dams in the Des Moines area and below the Saylorville and Red Rock dams into Marion County. The Middle Raccoon has very good walleye and smallmouth bass (catch-and-release only) fishing. New habitat has been constructed in the river above the highway P28 access.



Mississippi River

worthmore than a day 2006

northeast

By Scott Gritters, biologist
You can maximize a couple fishing days up the Great River Road along the upper Mississippi River. The road runs along the eastern border of Iowa and connects with our neighboring states. Pick any section of the Great River Road and you can spend a couple quality days along the Mississippi River. This summer however, try concentrating on a trip



Pine Lake

section of the roadtrip has numerous fishing sites, great sightseeing and small river towns that are big on

hospitality. Some must see spots to visit are the Guttenberg aquarium, Guttenberg river walkway, Bussey Lake fishing float, Pikes Peak State Park, Effigy Mounds National Monument, Sny Magill and Bloody Run trout stream.

northwest

By Jim Wahl, biologist
Upper and Lower Pine lakes, located one-half mile east of Eldora, will provide some of the best bass fishing in northern Iowa. Both of these lakes support bass in the 6- to 7-pound range, with good numbers exceeding 3 pounds. If you prefer panfish, crappie and bluegill are abundant in both lakes. The Iowa River is within a stones throw of the lower lake dam and produces good catches of smallmouth bass, channel catfish and an occasional walleye or pike. Camping is available at Pine Lake State Park on the upper lake

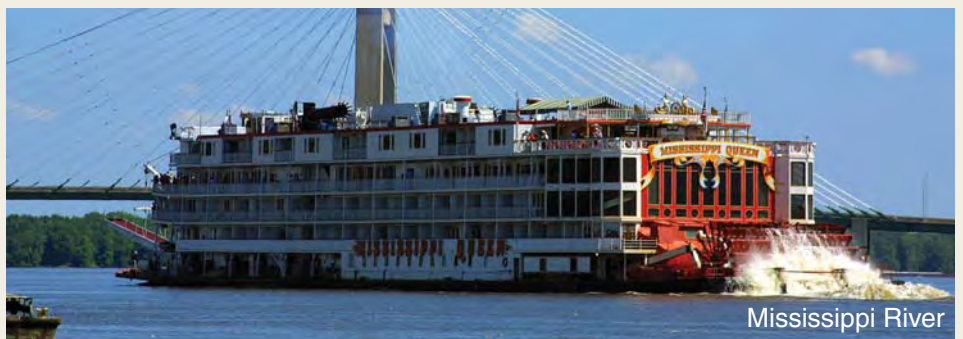
and rental cabins are available on the Iowa River.

southeast

By Mark Flammang, biologist
It's one of Iowa's largest lakes and has the fishing quality to match. Year-in and year-out Lake Rathbun (Appanoose County) is recognized across Iowa and the Midwest as one of the great "go to" places for the crappie enthusiast, and 2006 will bring an abundance of 10- to 12-inch crappies. How about spending a day or two more chasing the walleye on Lake Rathbun? The all-time record for walleye harvest at Rathbun was set last year, with great numbers of 15- to 21-inch fish common.

southwest

By Dick McWilliams, biologist
The Polk County area offers enough fishing to last more than a day. Gray's, Easter, Big Creek, Blue Heron and Saylorville lakes, with a combined 6,800 acres of water, offer fishing for everything from channel catfish to hybrid striped bass to bluegill. Add the Des Moines River in Polk County into the mix, and excellent fishing with good access is readily available. Good lodging and restaurant accommodations, plus entertainment, make this area very inviting.



Mississippi River

familyvacation spot 2006

northeast

By Bryan Hayes, biologist
Backbone State Park was Iowa's first dedicated state park back in 1920. As it was then, it remains one of the great family vacation spots in Iowa. Activities at the park and in surrounding communities are well worth planning a vacation around. Anglers can take fish from the well-stocked trout stream in the park, which is a popular place on Saturdays throughout the summer when the stocking truck arrives. The kids enjoy seeing the fish released into the stream and then going after 'em. Scenic Backbone Lake can add some variety to the creel. The good largemouth bass fishing from last year will likely carry over to 2006. All the accommodations needed for a memorable family vacation can be found within the park, and the scenery is priceless. Area events of interest include: Strawberry Days, June 9–11, Strawberry Point; Edgewood Rodeo Days, June 22–25, Edgewood; Delaware County Fair, July 10–16, Manchester; and the 25th Annual Backbone Bluegrass Festival, July 28–30. For more information, visit the Area Chamber of Commerce websites at; www.strawberrypt.com or www.manchesteriowa.org.

northwest

By Jim Wahl, biologist
There's something for everyone in the family at Clear Lake. Walleye, yellow bass, channel catfish, bullhead or even a muskie provides the angler plenty of opportunities on this 3,700-acre natural lake. Three public swim beaches are available, as well as water skiing and sailing. If you don't care for water activities, shop the many antique stores in downtown Clear Lake, or spend some time on one of three golf courses. Visitors are treated to special events at City Park nearly every weekend throughout the summer, and the Lady of the Lake tour boat is docked across the street. Several campgrounds and lodging facilities are available on or near the lake.

southeast

By Mark Flammang, biologist
Renovated in 1993, Lake Wapello in Davis County provides outstanding angling for bluegill (8- and 9-inch fish are common) and largemouth bass. Largemouth bass are extremely abundant and provide tremendous catch-and-releas-only angling. Camping spots are abundant and the recently renovated cabins provide a quiet and



Backbone State Park



Three Fires Lake

comfortable get away. Don't forget the lodge and restaurant on the lakeshore. Wapello is also a short drive from the historic Bloomfield

southwest

town square. By Gary Sobotka, biologist
Three Fires Lake in Taylor County is 80 acres and has great facilities for the family. Besides a new and rapidly growing fish population, there is tent camping and cabins, a swimming beach, playground, and best of all, there is excellent water quality.